Siphoning off Funds by Air India Offlcials

2609. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact tftsrt Air India officials in collaboration with unscrupulous travel agents have siphoned off Rs. 800 cr. per year by claiming "Special Promotional Expenses" in the lav t three years;

(b) whether it is also a fact that th ; "leakage" of fimds was one of the main reasons for Air India's losses during j the last three years; and

(c) if so, what action has been takers to bring the corrupt officials to book?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIA HON (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) and (b)No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Construction of Ai rport at Itanagar

2610. SHRI NABAM EtEBIA: will the Miniver of CIVIL AVIATION be plased to state :

(a) whether there is; any proposa t for constr-nction of airport at Itanagar;

(b) if so, the steps; tefan or proposed to be taken by the government in this regard; aod

(c) thietime by which it is likely to be con stnicted and the reaction of the Central Goveronent liMreto?

TKE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION*! (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. There is a proposal to cons mict a new airport at Itanagar in ArunacSial Pradesh for operation ^50 seater class of aircraft. The site identified by the State Government for this purf,)ose was inspected by a team of officers fi-om the Airports Authority of India and the State Govenmient. The site has not been found suitable. The State Government has, therefore, been advised to locate an alternate ate for this project.

General Recruitment Rules in AAI

2611. DR. Y. LAKSHMl PRASAD:—Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that both National and International divisions of Airports Authority of India are working independently having different re-cruitment and personnel rules resulting in avoidable establishment and lower profits; and